

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of Freire E. et al. Docket No. 03940022BA
Serial No. Filed herein
(Divisional application of Serial No. 09/089,097) Group Art Unit: N/A
Filed: Filed herein Examiner: N/A

For: Method for Prediction of Binding Targets and the Design of Ligands

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, line 8, after: "...rights in the invention.", please insert --This is a
divisional of co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/089,097.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 5, 11, 12, 14, and 16 without traverse.

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6-10, 13-15, and 17 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 11, 12, 14,

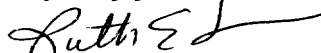
09/089,097

and 16 are canceled without traverse.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Very truly yours,



Ruth E. Tyler-Cross

Reg. No. 45,922

McGuireWoods LLP
1750 Tyson Boulevard
Suite 1800
McLean, VA 22102-4215
Phone: 703.712.5000
Fax: 703.712.5050
www.mcguiirewoods.com

our ref #03940022BA

-2-

SCANNED, # 14